

Geselbracht, Jeanne

From: Rao, Kate
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Albright, David; Li, Corine
Cc: evans-walker, daria; Montgomery, Michael; Banks, Karl
Subject: FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine (drinking water/ground water concerns????)
Attachments: Canyon U mine 1992.pdf

David/Corine –

There was a media inquiry this week about Canyon Uranium Mine in AZ. Owners are trying to reopen the mine. However, uranium ore production has never occurred at the site b/c the mine shaft has not yet been fully sunk. Grand Canyon Trust, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and Havasupai Tribe are against uranium mining at this location and have appealed the approval of the mine site.

Below is some background (goes back to 1985) and some recent info/articles. There may be drinking water impacts (both State and tribal) so I am bringing this to your attention. At this point, there is no action since we missed the reporter's deadline but it is likely we will get more inquiries on this issue. If either of you have any information on drinking water/ground water concerns and impacts from the proposed mining activities, please let me know.

Canyon Uranium Mine (owner: Energy Fuels Inc.)

- 6 miles southeast of the town of Tusayan.
- 35 miles southeast and upstream from the Havasupai Reservation.
- EPA commented on draft EIS in 1985 and rated it Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information. We asked for more info on NPDES permit requirements and ground water impacts. Final EIS issued in 1986 and adequately addressed EPA concerns.
- EPA's opinion was no NPDES permit needed b/c no discharge to WOUS.
- Milling site is White Mesa Uranium Mill in Blanding, Utah.
- Attached is EPA internal document from 1992 that provides background information.

Articles and Information

Grand Canyon Trust: map of uranium mines

(http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/sites/default/files/UraniumClaims_GrandCanyonRegion.pdf)

Center for Biological Diversity, Press Release (April 2015): [Federal Judge Oks Uranium Mining Next to Grand Canyon National Park, Decision Allows Mining Without Tribal Consultation or Update Decades-old Environmental Review](#)

[NOTE: This letter states that gw threatened by the mine feeds municipal wells and seeps into Havasu Springs and Havasu Creek. An APP issued by ADEQ did not require monitoring of deep aquifers.]

USDA Forest Service: [Canyon Uranium Mine](#)

[NOTE: this is a really good site and has current status and lots of background documentation.]

Thanks. Kate

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From: Marincola, JamesPaul
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 4:00 PM
To: Rao, Kate
Subject: FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

FYI

Jamie Marincola
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From: Geselbracht, Jeanne
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 3:58 PM
To: Rosenblum, Shelly; Zito, Kelly
Cc: Goforth, Kathleen; Marincola, JamesPaul
Subject: FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

Kelly, the Environmental Review Section has not been involved in this project recently. I found a 1992 RA briefing paper (attached) from our NEPA review office on the Canyon Mine. The briefing paper discusses EPA's involvement with the mine as of 1992. It appears EPA had been a cooperating agency on the original EIS in 1985-86 because of our NPDES permitting role at that time. EPA also had a NESHAPS permitting role.

Shelly, was there some recent NESHAPS permitting activity for this one?

Just yesterday, I saw this in High Country News about this project: http://www.hcn.org/articles/a-uranium-mine-is-anything-but-a-good-neighbor?utm_source=wc1&utm_medium=email

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From: Goforth, Kathleen
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 2:51 PM
To: Geselbracht, Jeanne
Subject: FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

Do you have any information about this? Please reply to Kelly with cc to me.
Thanks –
-Kathy

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From: Zito, Kelly
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 1:33 PM
To: Rao, Kate; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Goforth, Kathleen
Subject: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

Hi folks – An Arizona reporter called asking about the restarting of operations at Canyon Uranium Mine near the Grand Canyon.

She's asking whether EPA has any regulatory oversight of it. I already checked with Land Div, and they suggested you all may have more info or advice on where reporter can get additional background.

Here's a recent update on the mine I found online. Looks like USFS is involved.

Thanks-

Kelly

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/kaibab/home/?cid=fsm91_050263

Kelly Zito

Director of Public Affairs

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